

# ADOSH ADVOCATE

Improving Workplace Safety and Health



<http://www.ica.state.az.us>

Darin Perkins, Director

Spring 2003

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## ADOSH ADVOCATE

Published quarterly by the Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health for employers and employees of Arizona. The information in this newsletter is provided as a service and should not be considered as the exclusive source of the requirements of the standards. This document is in the public domain & we encourage re-printing.

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## ADOSH Focus

The beginning of a new year is typically a time of reflection. It provides an opportunity to look at the accomplishments of the past year, and consider areas of potential improvement for the coming year.

As I look back over the past year or two, I am generally pleased with the direction of the division and our accomplishments. We are just shy of being fully staffed, a position we have not been in for many years. We have a great staff, committed to protecting employees. Our consultation staff is well respected, as evidenced by the continually increasing numbers of employers who request their services and expertise. This newsletter has been a tremendous success (we print larger quantities every quarter), as is evidenced by the positive feedback we regularly receive.

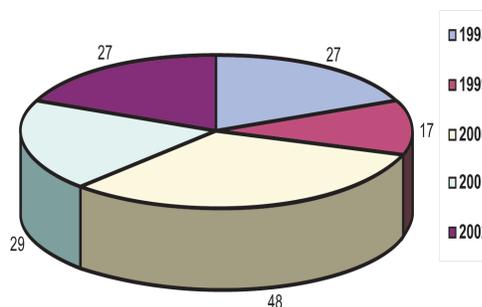
Other areas are also improving. The total injury and illness rate for the construction industry has been on the decline for several years now. Fatalities investigated by ADOSH have declined from a high of 48 in 2000 to 27 last year. Membership in the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP), Arizona's recognition program for employers with outstanding safety and health programs, has

increased (see related story, page 2). We are improving our response times to complaints and allegations of discrimination. We are also reducing the amount of time it takes to complete inspection reports and obtain correction of hazards.

The coming year brings an opportunity for further improvement. ADOSH will continue to focus an appropriate amount of resources in the construction industry, with a new emphasis on employee safety within highway work zones. We've also established a goal to reduce employee exposure to silica, regardless of the industry. We will work to further improve our report comple-

tion times and increase the number of employers participating in the VPP program. We are also in the process of establishing a recognition program that will be directed toward smaller employers. ADOSH will work with employers who desire our assistance to reduce their injury and illness rates. Upon reaching that goal, the employer will be recognized for their efforts and be removed from any ADOSH planned inspection list. Finally, we will continue to place an emphasis on customer service and ensure that employers and employees who interact with ADOSH, whether through

Total Fatalities Investigated by ADOSH by Federal Fiscal Year  
October 1 through September 30



compliance or consultation, receive the assistance they desire, in a timely and professional manner.

As we work to accomplish these and other goals, we welcome your input. If you have suggestions on how the division can improve, please let us know. In the near future, we will be sending out a survey to employers who have been the subject of a recent compliance inspection. The purpose of the survey will be to find out how our compliance officers are doing, how the employer community perceives the compliance sections and what we can do to improve our operations. The results of the survey will be published in a future edition of the Advocate.

*Darin Perkins*

## Did You Know?

The newly revised Injury & Illness Recordkeeping Standard requires that employers with eleven or more employees post the injury/illness record (osha 300 log) for all employees to see from February 1 to April 30 of each year. Some exemptions apply.

## V.P.P. Stardom

The Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health is pleased to announce Honeywell, Engines, Systems & Services, located at 11100 North Oracle Road, Tucson, AZ, has achieved VPP STAR status. VPP STAR stands for Voluntary Protection Program, Safety Through Accountability Recognition. Honeywell is the tenth employer in the State of Arizona to achieve this designation.

Before approving Honeywell as a STAR participant, a team of specialists from the Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health conducted a thorough wall-to-wall survey to verify that management places a top priority on the safety and health of its employees and that it is committed to providing a safe and healthful workplace for all employees.

There are several advantages to

being a VPP participant. First and foremost, there is an increased emphasis placed on employee safety and health by management as well as employees. Second, employees at VPP sites are assured that any concerns they may have with respect to safety and health will be addressed in a timely manner and that any needed corrections or improvements will be implemented. Third, this heightened emphasis on employee safety and health translates into fewer injuries and illnesses, as well as workers compensation and related expenses. Finally, achieving VPP status means that Honeywell will not be placed on any ADOSH general scheduled inspection list for at least the next three years.

ADOSH presented Honeywell with a VPP STAR certificate and a VPP flag, during celebration ceremonies on Monday, October 28, 2002.



## Fall Protection

This is the final article in a series dealing with the requirements for fall protection. This particular article highlights the fall protection requirements when working from scaffolding, or when engaged in steel erection activities.

### Scaffolding

In general, each employee on a scaffold more than 10 feet above a lower level must be protected from falling to that lower level. The customary method of providing this protection is the erection of guardrails (mid and top rails) on each working surface of the scaffold. Specific fall protection measures (other than guardrails) are required on some

types of scaffolding.

Employees working from a boatswains chair, catenary scaffold, float scaffold, needle beam scaffold, or ladder jack scaffold



must be protected by a personal fall arrest system.

Employees on a single-point or two-point adjustable suspension scaffold must be protected by both a personal fall arrest system and a guardrail system.

When performing overhand bricklaying operations, employees must be protected along all open sides and ends (except at the side next to the wall being laid) by guardrails or a personal fall arrest system.

Employees working from a self-contained adjustable scaffold must be protected by a guardrail system

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when the platform is supported by the frame structure, and by both a personal fall arrest system and a guardrail system when the platform is supported by ropes.

In addition to the above requirements, employers are required to have a competent person determine the feasibility and safety of providing fall protection for employees erecting or dismantling supported

scaffolds. Employers are required to provide fall protection for employees erecting or dismantling supported scaffolds where the installation and use of such protection is feasible and does not create a greater hazard.

### **Steel Erection**

Employees engaged in steel erection activities on a walking/working surface with an unprotected side or

edge more than 15 feet above a lower level must be protected from falling by a guardrail system, safety net system, personal fall arrest system, positioning device system, or fall restraint system.

*Exception:* Connectors, and deckers working in controlled decking zones must be protected at 30 feet or two stories in height, whichever is less.

*Patrick Ryan*

## Since You Asked

**Question:** Are there any regulations about smoking in the workplace? I work in an office where my boss smokes a pipe. I don't want to risk my job by having a confrontation about it, but I also don't like being exposed to second hand smoke.

**Answer:** Unfortunately, there are no OSHA regulations dealing with smoking in the workplace. Up until recently, there was a proposed standard for indoor air quality that dealt with this issue, among others. However that proposal was taken off of the regulatory agenda. Some local governments have adopted regulations dealing with smoking in the workplace. You should start by contacting the city where your workplace is located.

**Question:** I recently had my wisdom teeth extracted. When I asked if I could keep them, my dentist said that it was against OSHA regulations. Is this true?

**Answer:** Surprisingly, this is a common question. There is no OSHA regulation prohibiting the dentist from giving you your extracted teeth. As far as we are concerned, you're welcome to them!

**Question:** The repair shop where I take my vehicle for service has a

sign that says that I cannot enter the service area, due to OSHA regulations. Is there such a regulation?

**Answer:** No. As a customer of the establishment, we have no jurisdiction over your entry into the service area.



**Question:** If there are multiple employers working on a jobsite under a contract with a general contractor, is it the responsibility of each employer to comply with OSHA regulations or does all of the burden fall on the general contractor alone?

**Answer:** Every employer has a duty to provide his or her employees with a safe working environment. Additionally, all employers have a

duty to protect employees of other employers when the hazards that those other employees are exposed to are within the direct control of the creating employer. For example, if Contractor A creates a hazard by cutting a large hole into the deck of a roof and Contractor B has employees working on the roof around the hole, then both contractors would be at risk of receiving citations from OSHA; Contractor A, due to the fact that he created the hazard, and Contractor B because his employees were exposed to the hazard. Additionally, the general contractor overseeing the project could potentially be cited as well, depending upon his knowledge of the hazard and/or his efforts at preventing such hazards from occurring. The bottom line is that every employer is ultimately responsible for his or her own employees. However, depending upon the circumstances, an employer can also be responsible for the safety of another employer's employees.

*Mark Norton*

If you have a question concerning safety and health in the workplace, please feel free to contact our consultation sections at 602-542-1769 in Phoenix, or 520-628-5478 in Tucson.

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## Occupational Fatalities Investigated by ADOSH October 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002

- 1) An employee was struck by a forklift.
- 2) An employee driving a tow truck was overcome by carbon monoxide.
- 3) An employee working inside of a residential attic was electrocuted when he contacted frayed wiring.
- 4) A machine fell over, crushing an employee against the side wall of a trailer.

### *Fatal Mistakes*

If you wear hearing protection, are you protected from everything? If you are listening to a radio headset, are you safe from other noise and outside influences? We already know the answer to both questions. Hearing protection does not protect a worker from everything. Listening to a headset radio detracts from your ability to be aware of your surroundings and to react to dangers you may not hear over the noise already in your ears. Hearing protection and a radio headset were involved in two recent workplace deaths.

An employee checking grades on a construction site was wearing a forbidden radio and headset to listen to his favorite music, or talk radio station. There was a blade and a loader on the site working to achieve the grade this employee was checking and marking. The employee was experienced and knew his job. The blade and loader operators also had experience and were aware of his presence. While they did not have him in sight at all times, they were looking out for him as they worked and he was looking out for them.

The employee probably was not looking for a fully loaded water truck that had arrived on the work site. He may have known it was there and may have assumed it would be away from his immediate work area. With his back to the water truck, he was unaware of the truck backing toward him. The driver did not see the worker in his dirt-occluded and cracked rearview mirror. He was not yet spreading water, but was backing to a starting point. The driver heard the screams of the worker and stopped. He found the worker directly below the cab step on the side of the truck. He had been run over and died the next day.

An employee at a meat packing plant was placing dry detergent on an alleyway road surface. This preparation work was prior to hosing the road off with hot water to remove a build up of animal fat and drippings from a truck delivering broken pieces of bones to a rendering operation. The noise level in the alleyway was severe. Company policy dictated the use of hearing protection for all workers in this area. The worker had taken the precautionary steps of wearing earplugs, then donning hearing protection earmuffs for good measure. A bone delivery truck entered the alley in reverse. The employee was working with his back to the truck, not aware of its approach.

The truck driver felt a bump, realized there was something in the alley that he had run over, and stepped out of the truck to find the worker fully run over by the truck's rear wheels. The driver had not seen the worker in the fat smeared and cracked rear view mirror. The backup alarm was inoperative, but probably would not have made any difference in this high noise area.

In both cases, there were important failures that resulted in death. The drivers were unaware of the workers behind them. The workers had something on their ears to prevent exterior noise intrusion, neither could hear the approaching truck, and they had their backs turned. Both trucks had improperly maintained rear view mirrors. Rear vision was obscured on both trucks, to a point of virtual invisibility of workers on the ground behind them. In at least one of the two cases a backup alarm had become inoperative. In both cases surrounding noise together with either hearing protection, or hearing interference, rendered the potential value of back up alarms virtually useless.

One employee disregarded simple safety instructions about headset radios. He had received warnings about their use. The other employee was following safety instructions regarding hearing protection, and being extra careful. Neither was able to hear the approaching truck, and both died of massive internal blunt force trauma. The use of a spotter, or a change in safety procedures, could have prevented these needless deaths.

*Ernie Miller*

## Correction

The article entitled "Electrical Extension Cords" in the Winter 2003 issue of the ADOSH Advocate contains an error. The word "not" was inadvertently left out of the first sentence of the first paragraph. That sentence should read: "It is ADOSH's position that the act of plugging one extension cord into another does not amount to a tap and therefore, does not constitute a violation of the above standard." We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

## ADOSH Education and Training Calendar

Registration for each course begins no earlier than 30 days prior to the date of the course. Location, address and time of course will be determined at the time of registration. All ADOSH classes are free of charge and are subject to change or cancellation without notice.

April 3	Forklift Train the Trainer	Phoenix	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
April 8	Personal Protective Equipment	Peoria	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
April 8	Construction Safety Mgmt.	Avondale	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
April 9	Heat Stress Prevention	Yuma	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
April 10	Fall Protection	Tucson	Glynn Condit	520-320-4229
April 15	OSHA in the Medical Office	Flagstaff	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
April 15	OSHA Recordkeeping	Tucson	Glynn Condit	520-320-4229
April 16	Excavation Hazard Awareness	Cottonwood	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
April 16	Fall Protection	Cottonwood	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
April 17	Ladder & Stairway Safety	Prescott	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
April 18	Hand & Power Tool Safety	Tucson	Glynn Condit	520-320-4229
April 22	Excavation Hazard Awareness	Phoenix	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
April 24	Machine Guarding	Tucson	Glynn Condit	520-320-4229
April 24	OSHA in the Medical Office	Prescott	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
April 28	Lockout/Tagout	Tucson	Glynn Condit	520-320-4229
May 2	Forklift Train the Trainer	Tucson	Glynn Condit	520-320-4229
May 6	Excavation Hazard Awareness	Tucson	Glynn Condit	520-320-4229
May 8	Lockout/Tagout	Phoenix	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
May 13	Scaffolding Safety	Phoenix	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
May 13	Heat Stress Prevention	Peoria	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
May 14	Laser Hazard Awareness	Tucson	Glynn Condit	520-320-4229
May 15	OSHA in the Medical Office	Avondale	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
May 16	Hazard Communication	Tucson	Glynn Condit	520-320-4229
May 22	Scaffolding Safety	Tucson	Glynn Condit	520-320-4229
May 22	Fall Protection	Phoenix	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
May 22	Heat Stress Prevention	Prescott	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
May 27	Welding and Cutting Safety	Tucson	Glynn Condit	520-320-4229
May 29	Construction Safety Mgmt.	Yuma	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
June 3-5	Various topics (call for list)	Kayenta	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
June 4	OSHA Recordkeeping	Tucson	Glynn Condit	520-320-4229
June 10	Fall Protection	Tucson	Glynn Condit	520-320-4229
June 10	Electrical Safety Awareness	Peoria	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
June 11	Respiratory Protection	Phoenix	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
June 13	Forklift Train the Trainer	Tucson	Glynn Condit	520-320-4229
June 18	Lockout/Tagout	Tucson	Glynn Condit	520-320-4229
June 19	Forklift Train the Trainer	Camp Verde	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
June 24	Excavation Hazard Awareness	Tucson	Glynn Condit	520-320-4229
June 25	Hazard Communication	Phoenix	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
June 26	Lockout/Tagout	Yuma	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
June 27	Scaffolding Safety	Tucson	Glynn Condit	520-320-4229

All Tucson classes will be held at 2675 East Broadway Tucson Az. Please call if you have any questions.

Trainers may also be contacted by e-mail at [joe.gates@osha.gov](mailto:joe.gates@osha.gov), [fernando.mendieta@osha.gov](mailto:fernando.mendieta@osha.gov), and [glynn.condit@osha.gov](mailto:glynn.condit@osha.gov)

## *Southwest Safety Congress*

The annual Southwest Safety Congress, sponsored by the Arizona Chapter of the National Safety Council, will be held at the Mesa Community & Conference Center on May 13, 14, and 15, 2003. John Henshaw, the Assistant Secretary for Federal OSHA, is currently scheduled to serve as the keynote speaker. Everyone is encouraged to attend. To register for the event, call 602-277-9815, or visit the web site at [www.acnsc.org](http://www.acnsc.org).

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